

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, and 19-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13-18 and 22-24 are canceled, and claims 19-21 are amended. No new matter is added.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance by canceling the rejected claims and amending claims 19-21 as requested by the Office Action; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for Appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to issues raised in the Office Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 1-3 and 5-7 are allowed, and that claims 19-21 would be allowable if amended to address various informalities. By this Amendment, claims 19-21 are amended as requested by the Office Action. Applicant respectfully submits that all of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 19-21 are allowable.

II. Rejections

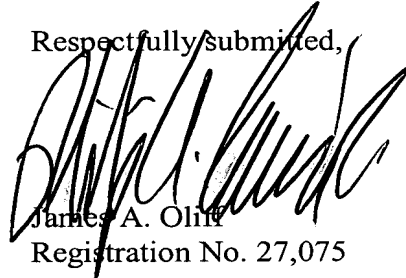
The Office Action rejects claims 13-18 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukada (U.S. Patent No. 5,266,825). By this Amendment, claims 13-18 and 22-24 are canceled, thus rendering the rejections moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3, 5-7 and 19-21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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